

## A Study on Constraints Faced by KVK Scientists of NE Region of India and Suggestion for Improvement

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### ABSTRACT

Majority of the KVK scientists (100%) of NE Region of India has problem of insufficient and irregularity of fund flow to carry out their activities followed by more work load due to some external schemes (90.74%) and insufficient staff (81.48%). Similarly, the suggestions given by the respondents are in accordance with the constraints encountered by them which reveal that 100 per cent of the respondents expressed continuous, sufficient and timely supply of fund is most important for improvement of KVK activities. Other important suggestions given by the respondents are strong and dynamic leadership of Programme Coordinator (94.44%); Proper convergence with the line departments (88.89) and more man power for proper execution of activities (85.18%) etc.

**Keywords:** KVK, Constraints, Suggestions and KVK scientist

### INTRODUCTION

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) is an innovative science-based institution which undertakes vocational training of farmers, farm women and rural youths; conducts on farm research for technology refinement and frontline demonstrations to promptly demonstrate the latest agricultural technologies to the farmers as well as the extension workers established with the recommendation of the Education Commission (1964-66) and consideration/review by the Planning Commission & Inter Ministerial Committee (Hansra *et al.*, 1999). The KVK functions on the principles of collaborative participation of scientists, subject matter specialists, extension workers and farmers. Imparting learning through "work experience" to those who are engaged in farming is the main purpose of the KVKs (Kokate *et al.*, 2011). The syllabus and programme of each KVK is tailored to the felt needs of the farmers, resources and potential for agricultural growth in a particular area. "Teaching by doing" and "Learning by doing" are the main methods of imparting skill training. The KVKs

also participate in the process of agricultural technology development and refinement. Emphasis is also on employment generation to bring about equality of opportunities for socio economically deprived class of farmers and traditionally backward areas in the country including dry land areas (Venkatasubramanian *et al.*, 2009). The first KVK on a pilot basis was established in the year 1974 in Pondicherry under the administrative control of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. All the KVKs established in the country under State Agricultural Universities, Central Agricultural Universities, General Universities, NGOs, ICAR Institutes, State Governmental Departments and Private Sectors. In NE Region there are 78 KVKs in total, out of which 18 nos. are under ICAR Institutes, 27 nos. are under SAUs/ CAUs/ GUs, 3 nos. are under NGOs and 30 nos. are under State Governmental Departments ([www.icarzc3.gov.in](http://www.icarzc3.gov.in)).

It is seen that KVKs are in operation from 1974 onwards, and are managed by different organizations from public to private and educational to governmental

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departments. The mandated activities are to be performed productively but due to some constraints faced by the KVK scientists, the activities are hampered and thereby causing harm to the farming community in agriculture and allied activities. So, the present study was conducted to find out the constraints encountered by KVK scientists working under different administrative units and their suggestions for improvement of their mandated activities.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The objective of the study was to find out the problems faced by the KVK scientists and invite suggestions from them for improving the problems. For the study, 10 nos. of KVK were selected purposively from NE Region under different administrative units, viz., SAU/CAU/ GU, State Govt. departments, ICAR and NGO. The purposively selected KVKs are Cachar (SAU) & Tinsukia (SAU) of Assam, Imphal East (CAU) of Manipur, Phek (ICAR) of Nagaland, West Garo Hills (ICAR) of Meghalaya, Tirap (State Department) of Arunachal Pradesh, Mammit (State Department) of Mizoram, South Sikkim (State Department) of Sikkim and West Tripura (NGO) & South Tripura (ICAR) of Tripura. A sample of 54 nos. of KVK scientists were selected purposively from these 10 KVKs. For identifying the problems and to invite suggestions for further improvement of KVK activities, the sample was interviewed with a survey schedule. The constraints encountered by the sample are administered in Table 1 and where as their suggestions are highlighted in Table 2 with frequency, percentage and rank.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Data presented in Table.1 reveals that almost all respondents (100%) have "problem of insufficient and irregularity of fund flow to carry out their activities". Similar finding was reported by Subhashchandra (2007). This constraint has received Rank I. Other constraints, viz., "More work load due to some external schemes" and "Insufficient staff" is placed in Rank II and III with 90.74 per cent and 81.48 per cent respectively. Table 1 also reveals constraints like "Poor IT facility" with 79.63 percent (Rank IV); "Single vehicle hindrance KVK activity" with 77.78 percent (Rank V); "Lack of location specific technologies for Home Sc. Section" with 55.55 percent (Rank VI); "No define technologies for Social

Sc. discipline for conducting OFT and FLD" with 53.70 percent (Rank VII); "Lengthy official procedure leads to delay in timely sanction of proposals" with 48.15 percent (Rank VIII); "Erratic power supply" with 46.30 percent (Rank IX); "Lack of career advancement scheme" with 11.11 percent (Rank X) respectively. It is observed from the table that though the particular constraint "lack of career advancement scheme" has been placed in Rank X with 11.11 per cent, yet in case of NGO KVK it is 100 per cent which means that the KVK scientists of NGO KVK has got no chance for further career advancement facility. Similar findings are reported by Gaikwad and Gunjal (2000).

It is clear from Table 1 that "Insufficient and irregularity fund flow" is the main constraint of KVK scientists in implementing their activities irrespective of host organizations. It is also observed that the constraint "Lengthy official procedure leads to delay in timely sanction of proposals" is also a major constraint in case of SAU/CAU KVKs. This may be due to the presence of more nos. of sanctioning authority and no sanctioning power of Programme Coordinator of KVK. It is also observed that this is not at all a constraint in case of NGO KVKs, because in here the Programme Coordinator of the KVK is the main sanctioning authority (Patil *et al.*, 2011). Other constraints like "No define technologies for Social Sc. discipline for conducting OFT & FLD" and "Lack of location specific technologies for Home Sc. Section" are the common constraints for KVK scientists irrespective of host organization. This may be due to the reason that, in case of Social Sc. and Home Sc., there is least nos. of research institutes available to conduct different research programmes from where KVK scientists can find out their OFTs (Venkatasubramanian *et al.*, 2009). "Insufficient staff" is another major constraint of KVK scientists irrespective of host organization, because KVK, which is supposed to be main centre for transfer of technology, is now fully loaded with external activities/projects/programmes and more over, vacancies are not filled up by the host organization for a longer period. So, when there will be provision of more scientific staff, this constraint may automatically be solved (Gogoi *et al.*, 2012). KVKs are located in remote places of the country. There is always a problem for power supply and IT facility which leads to poor networking with other parts of the country. Every KVK

Table 1: Constraints encountered by KVK scientists

Constraints	SAU/CAU KVK (n=17)		ICAR KVK (n=14)		State KVK (n=17)		NGO KVK (n=6)		Total (N= 54)		Rank
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	
	Insufficient and irregularity of fund flow	17	100	14	100	17	100	6	100	54	
Lengthy official procedure leads to delay in timely sanction of proposals	15	88.23	6	42.85	5	29.41	0	-	26	48.15	VIII
Lack of career advancement scheme	0	-	0	-	0	-	6	100	6	11.11	X
No define technologies for Social Sc. discipline for conducting OFT and FLD	10	58.82	7	50.00	9	52.94	3	50.00	29	53.70	VII
Lack of location specific technologies for Home Sc. Section	9	52.94	8	57.14	10	58.82	3	50.00	30	55.55	VI
Insufficient staff	12	70.59	13	92.86	14	82.35	5	83.33	44	81.48	III
Poor IT facility	14	82.35	12	85.71	12	70.59	5	83.33	43	79.63	IV
Erratic power supply	8	47.05	6	42.86	9	52.94	2	33.33	25	46.30	IX
More work load due to some external schemes	16	94.11	12	85.71	15	88.23	6	100	49	90.74	II
Single vehicle hindrance KVK activity	15	88.23	12	85.71	14	82.35	1	16.67	42	77.78	V

has one vehicle which creates hindrance in KVK activities (Nath *et al.*, 2014).

Table 2 reveals the suggestions given by the respondents in accordance with the constraints encountered by them. Data in Table 2 reveals that 100 per cent of the respondents expressed "Continuous, sufficient and timely supply of fund" (Rank I) which is most important for improvement of KVK activities. Other important suggestions given by the respondents are "Strong and dynamic leadership of Programme Coordinator" with 94.44 percent (Rank II); "Proper convergence with the line departments" with 88.89 percent (Rank III); "More man power for proper execution of activities" with 85.18 percent (Rank IV); "Proper infrastructure facility like high tech laboratory, library, more nos. of vehicles should be provided to all KVKs" with 79.63 percent (Rank V), "Effective IT facility" with 77.78 percent (Rank VI). It is also observed from Table. 2 that 50.00 per cent of the respondents suggested "Location specific technologies should be readily available to conduct OFT and FLDs" (Rank VII) followed by "Requirement of coordination

among staff" with 48.15 percent (Rank VIII), "Common guideline for all KVKs" with 42.59 percent (Rank IX), "Effective monitoring, guidance and evaluation of KVK activities" with 33.33 percent (Rank X) respectively.

It is observed that continuous, sufficient and timely supply of fund can be an important solution for improvement of KVK activities. In the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan, there is a huge expectation from KVKs. Accordingly; many changes have been proposed to strengthen the KVKs in terms of human resource, material resources and farm facilities etc. Some of the proposals include, upgrading the status of Head of KVK to professor/principal scientist level, increase the number of subject matter specialists to at least 10; upgrade soil testing laboratories with micro-nutrient analysis facilities; link all the KVKs with state-of-art information and communication technology; provide mobile vans with diagnostic and communication technologies; establish farm mechanization unit for training and motivating rural youth to establish custom hiring centres of locally required farm equipments (Venkattakumar *et al.*, 2012).

Table 2: Suggestions for effectiveness of KVK programmes (N= 54)

Suggestions	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
Continuous, sufficient and timely supply of fund	54	100	I
Strong and dynamic leadership of Programme Coordinator	51	94.44	II
Proper convergence with the line departments	48	88.89	III
Proper infrastructure facility like high tech laboratory, library, more nos. of vehicles should be provided to all KVKs	43	79.63	V
Effective IT facility			
More man power for proper execution of activities	42	77.78	VI
Requirement of coordination among staff within the KVK	46	85.18	IV
Location specific technologies should be readily available to conduct OIT and FLDs	26	48.15	VIII
Common guideline for all KVKs	27	50.00	VII
Effective monitoring, guidance and evaluation of KVK activities	23	42.59	IX
	18	33.33	X

The leadership quality of Programme Coordinator can be improved by organizing capacity building programme on leadership development and vesting more power to Programme Coordinator. Convergence with the line department for effective and timely implementation of KVK activities is a major concern for KVKs to improve their works. There should be a common guideline for all KVKs for effective monitoring, guidance and evaluation of KVK activities (Chetia et al., 2014).

### CONCLUSION

The KVK is a grass root level institution launched by ICAR after finding the fact that the training institutes in the country were not sufficient to meet the training needs of the farmers (Kokate et al., 2011). Looking at KVK growth and their increasing demand and utility, it was felt necessary to study the constraints of KVK scientist and their suggestions for future improvement of KVK programme. It is concluded, that, a high time has come to strengthen the KVKs as a vital extension and development institute in terms of financial resource, manpower and infrastructure for effective functioning. The findings of the study may be utilized for modification of KVK programme and their activities all over the country.

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